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FCC GRANTS VERIZON WAIVER TO EXERCISE PRICING FLEXIBILITY FOR CERTAIN ADVANCED SERVICES

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today grants a waiver permitting Verizon Communications Inc. to exercise pricing flexibility for advanced services that rely on packet technology similar to the pricing flexibility that it has for other special access services.

On June 25, 2004, Verizon filed a petition asking the Commission to waive its pricing flexibility rules with respect to Verizon's packet-based advanced services. It concurrently filed a petition asking the Commission to forbear from enforcing these rules. Today, Verizon withdrew its forbearance petition.

The waiver petition granted today enables Verizon to exercise Phase I pricing flexibility for these services in the same areas where it already has qualified for Phase I or II pricing flexibility for other special access services. It further grants Verizon the opportunity to apply for Phase II pricing flexibility for these packet-based advanced services in the same areas by satisfying the competitive showings set forth in the pricing flexibility rules.

The services for which the waiver is granted are referred to by Verizon as "fast-packet" services, and comprise packet-switching equipment and facilities that reach enterprise customers through dedicated special access lines to form high-capacity data networks. The waiver provides Verizon the flexibility to offer individually negotiated contracts for these services.

Action by the Commission: Commissioners Copps and Adelstein concurring. September 22, 2005, by Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC-05-171).

Docket No.: 04-246

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